

Modification of *Delacare Rules* during a Disaster or Emergency Event

- Family Child Care (FCC) Homes -

Licensed child care facilities are required to follow *Delacare Rules* to ensure the protection of children and the promotion of their health, safety, well-being and positive development. In the event of a natural or man-made disaster or emergency event, the Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) may determine that conditions are such that a modification of certain rules under which licensed child care facilities operate is appropriate. During such extraordinary situations, OCCL will adopt a common sense approach to decisions made regarding modifying rules. The decision process will include taking into consideration how a particular event could or has affected the facility's operation, the advice of State and local emergency management agencies, the Division of Public Health, and any other appropriate authorities who can provide guidance regarding the impact of the event on child care. The guidance received will be used to determine which *Delacare Rules* are affected and the acceptable standard by which compliance will be determined. The ultimate goal will be to continue to protect children and eliminate or minimize risks of serious or imminent danger.

Licensed child care facilities will remain responsible for complying with any *Delacare Rule* as adopted and approved by the Secretary of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families unless a modification has been approved by OCCL. Licensed child care facilities which seek relief from adhering to a Rule(s) shall be required to follow *Delacare Rules* – FCC Homes, see Rules #89 & 90- as indicated by the particular circumstance and notify OCCL of the emergency event impacting their facility as soon as they are able to do so. Each situation will be assessed on an individual basis and approval for any modification will be noted in the facility's licensing file. A modification of *Delacare Rules* under such conditions is not the same as a "rule variance" – FCC Homes, see Rules # 105-109". Please note that licensed child care facilities always have the option to exceed the baseline or minimum standard set by any Rule or modification thereof. During a disaster or emergency event, using best practice recommendations that enhance the level of protection and accountability for children is strongly encouraged.

For safety sake, when there is advance notice of an impending emergency event, it may be best for the facility to close and advise parents/guardians to arrange for their children to be picked up. The conditions at that time and the directions of State and/or local emergency management agencies or appropriate authorities concerning travel and evacuation shall be the determining factor as to when a facility should close or maintain the children at the site. Licensed child care facilities will remain responsible for children in their care regardless of the location until parents/guardians can be reunited with their children or others with legal authority assume responsibility.

This document lists examples of rules and how they could potentially be adjusted depending on the particular circumstances of the event. This is not a complete alternative listing as other rules and arrangements may be considered dependent upon the impact of the event, guidance received from appropriate authorities, and approval from OCCL. Also listed are some best practice recommendations that facilities are encouraged to utilize for an even higher level of protection and accountability during a disaster or emergency event.

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 89, 90A, B & F – Notification to OCCL</p> <p>Immediately notify OCCL by direct voice contact during OCCL’s business hours of the death of a child; call 24 hour Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline (currently listed as 1-800-292-9582) if occurring after OCCL’s business hour.</p> <p>Notify within one (1) business day by direct voice contact during OCCL’s business hours if there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any fire; flood; or any other serious damage due to any natural or man-made disaster that affect the ability to operate safely. • Injury of a child while in care at the FCC Home requiring in-patient or out-patient treatment. Written report on appropriate form is also required. • Any breakdown of equipment that could pose a threat to the health and safety of children such as lack of operating toilets, interruption of running water, loss of telephone service, failure of smoke/fire alarm system, and failure of cooling or heating systems. 	<p>All available efforts must be made to notify emergency services and request assistance when a child is injured or dies.</p> <p>Reporting the death of a child must be made immediately after phone service reestablished.</p> <p>Reporting damage to the FCC Home, injury of a child, or breakdown of equipment/utility service must occur within one (1) business day after phone service has been reestablished.</p> <p>Other methods of communication – emailing or texting - should be utilized if such a method provides an opportunity to reach OCCL sooner. Whenever a communication method does not involve direct voice contact, follow-up with direct voice contact must also be made within the appropriate time frame.</p> <p>OCCL will assess effects of any damage to the FCC Home and disrupted utility service – electricity, gas, water, etc., to determine if continued operation is acceptable. When applicable, this assessment will include reports/inspections from other appropriate authorities.</p> <p>Approval from OCCL will be required prior to reopening.</p>
<p>Rule 112 – Prohibited Persons</p> <p>Prohibited persons – those with unacceptable backgrounds are prohibited on the premises of the FCC Home while child care is being provided or are prohibited at any time when so prescribed by Law.</p>	<p>This prohibition still stands during a disaster or emergency event.</p>
<p>Rules 144-151: Capacity and Ratio</p> <p>Preschool-aged children living/present in the FCC Home and school-age children living/present in the FCC Home that do not attend a public or private school outside of the home count toward total capacity.</p> <p>School-age children living/present in the FCC Home that attend a public or private school outside of the home do not count toward the total capacity.</p>	<p>Any children present will be allowed to remain at the FCC Home until it is safe to release them to their parents/guardians. Over capacity during a disaster or emergency event will be evaluated based on the particular circumstances of the event.</p> <p>A FCC Home may be used as an evacuation site by one other FCC or LFCC Home when an advisory or mandatory evacuation directive is issued by an appropriate authority.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 144-151: Capacity and Ratio (continued)</p> <p>School-age children not living in the FCC will count toward the capacity and may attend before/after school, and/or during school holidays, and/or school vacation in the summer.</p> <p>FCC Level I – 5 children preschool-ager or younger and no school-age children; or 4 children preschool-ager or younger and 2 school-age children.</p> <p>FCC Level II – Maximum of 6 children preschool-age or younger and 3 school-age children.</p> <p>There are also restrictions on the specific number of children under the age of 24 months that are allowed to be cared for in the FCC Home.</p> <p>When transitioning between shifts of care, 2 additional children may be present for up to a 2 hour time period when overlapping 2 full shifts.</p>	<p>A FCC Provider (Licensee) sheltering at another FCC or LFCC Home remains responsible for the children he/she brought to the other FCC or LFCC Home and must stay with those children at all times until they can be reunited with their parents/guardians.</p>
<p>Rule 152 – Night Child Care Ratio</p> <p>FCC Level I – No more than 4 children of any age when providing evening and/or overnight care (excluding the FCC Licensee’s own school-age children).</p> <p>FCC Level II – No more than 6 children of any age when providing evening and/or overnight care (excluding the FCC Licensee’s own school-age children).</p> <p>Licensee or Substitute needs to remain awake at all times children are in child care.</p>	<p>Any children present will be allowed to remain at a FCC Home until it is safe to release them to their parents/guardians. The FCC Licensee who is alone in the home with children (no other adult is available), may also sleep when the children are sleeping in the evening and/or overnight when the emergency or disaster event lasts more than 17 consecutive hours. If another adult is available, one adult must remain awake to monitor children at all times.</p>
<p>Rule 153: Maximum Consecutive Hours of Child Care</p> <p>No more than 17 consecutive hours of child care within a 24 hour period with at least 7 consecutive hours of rest.</p>	<p>Any children present will be allowed to remain at a FCC Home until it is safe to release them to their parents/guardians. The FCC Licensee who is alone in the home with children (no other adult is available), may also sleep when the children are sleeping in the evening and/or overnight when the emergency or disaster event lasts more than 17 consecutive hours. If another adult is available, one adult must remain awake to monitor children at all times.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rule 166: Release of Children</p> <p>Release child only to person authorized by parent/guardian.</p> <p>Have written procedures for release of children.</p> <p>Document when child is released to any authorized person.</p> <p>Have a process for dealing with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request by parent/guardian for emergency release of a child; • Identifying unknown (unfamiliar) person with authorization from parent/guardian to pick up child; • Unauthorized, intoxicated (incapable of driving or caring for child) person, or non-custodial parent not authorized to pick up a child. 	<p>Consider taking steps to enhance procedures for the release of children to ensure they are safely reunited with their parents/guardians or appropriate person during a disaster or emergency event.</p> <p>The sudden onset of an event may cause families to all arrive at once wanting to pick up children and depart as quickly as possible. Keeping the situation under control will be extremely important to ensure children are only released to the appropriate person and the child's whereabouts are known at all times.</p> <p>Also keep in mind that there is a possibility that some parents/guardians may not be readily available if the event happens suddenly. This may result in a parent/guardian sending someone else who may not be familiar to the FCC Home. Have a process ready to quickly and efficiently identify an unknown person and ensure the release is authorized.</p> <p>Also be prepared to deal with children that can not be picked up. Have a plan for any remaining children. Decide if care will be provided at the FCC Home or another location, and how parents/guardians will be located, contacted and/or kept informed.</p> <p>Also if not remaining at the FCC Home – relocation is necessary - it is especially important to document how and when a child was released to an authorized person. It is recommended that detailed information be included as part of the documentation that clearly indicates how the child was properly released such as date and time of release, identity of the person, type of identification used, and signature of the person child was released to.</p> <p>Consider taking a picture of the person whom the child has been released to as an additional identification method.</p>
<p>Rule 174: Room Temperature</p> <p>Temperatures at floor level in rooms used by children are to be maintained at a minimum of 65 degrees and maximum of 85 degrees unless there is a conflict with Federal or State energy laws.</p> <p>FCC Homes are required to temporarily close if minimum or maximum temperatures can not be maintained.</p>	<p>If utility service is disrupted, do all that is possible to keep children's body temperatures within a normal healthy range such as putting on additional clothing or placing children under blankets to keep them warm; or taking safe measures to keep children cool such as dressing children as lightly as possible and providing water or suitable liquids to prevent dehydration.</p> <p>Children will be allowed to stay at the FCC Home until it is safe to release them to their parents/guardians or directed to evacuate by appropriate authorities.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rule 180: Telephone</p> <p>In-service (working) cell or land-line telephone is required.</p>	<p>If phone service is disrupted, try other methods of communication such as emailing, texting, or using another type of phone - land-line if cell phones are out or vice versa.</p>
<p>Rules 186-193: General and Fire Safety</p> <p>Child care must be provided on ground level space. No child care provided on the second floor or a level with a vertical travel of more than 5 feet.</p> <p>Every room used for child care - at least two exits or means of escape, one of which is a door or stairway providing unblocked travel to the outside of the FCC Home at street or ground level.</p> <p>A second exit or means of escape may be a window that easily opens – not more than 44 inches above the floor, has an opening 20 inches wide, 24 inches high and total area of at least 5.7 square feet.</p> <p>Basement level may be used - need at least one door that exits directly to the outside at ground level with vertical travel or stairway to the ground level not more than 8 feet.</p> <p>Each door used as exit is not less than 32 inches wide.</p> <p>Door locks in rooms used by children are designed to permit opening from the outside and opening device is available to Licensee.</p> <p>Every closet door latch in rooms used by children is designed so that children can open the door from the inside.</p> <p>Children may use a bathroom that is not ground level if that is the only bathroom in the house.</p> <p>No room or space can be use that is accessible only ladder, folding stairs or trap door.</p>	<p>Other levels, basements, rooms or areas, exits, or types of door locks or latches not normally approved for child care may be acceptable or used only when it is established as the safest available place to shelter or best way to exit from danger.</p>
<p>Rule 201: Plumbing</p> <p>Plumbing is kept in good working condition.</p>	<p>When plumbing is not working due to utility disruption or damage to pipes or sewer line, clean water may be obtained from other sources such as bottled water, water stored in a tub, or hot water heater. Sanitary make-shift toilets and sinks will also be acceptable.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 202 & 205: Bathroom Toilet & Sink and Kitchen Sink</p> <p>One flushing toilet and one sink with hot and cold running water in the same indoor bathroom.</p> <p>One sink in kitchen with hot and cold running water.</p>	<p>When sheltering in a specific area, using the most accessible toilet(s) and sink(s) is acceptable.</p>
<p>Rules 206 & 207: Refrigerator & Freezer</p> <p>Refrigerator keeps perishable foods cold at 40 degrees or colder with working thermometer in the refrigerator.</p> <p>Freezer keeps foods frozen at 0 degrees or colder with working thermometer in the freezer.</p>	<p>If utility service is disrupted, perishable foods that can be safely prepared should be used first. Utilize alternative safe methods to keep foods from spoiling – i.e. keeping foods on ice, using dry ice, etc.</p> <p>Have a supply of non-perishable foods ready when fresh foods are no longer available or have become unsafe to eat.</p> <p>When sheltering in a specific area, food preparation can be performed in an area without operable equipment.</p> <p>If possible, use surfaces that can be sanitized. Use bleach and water solution – see information above.</p> <p>Move all foods and food service/food preparation equipment and utensils to level that protects it from water or other damage.</p> <p>Best practice calls for keeping refrigerators closed at all times unless removing or storing foods. Reducing the number of times the refrigeration equipment is opened will help to maintain a low temperature for the longest time.</p> <p>Hand sanitizers should be used if available.</p>
<p>Rules 229-231: Emergency Planning</p> <p>Have a written emergency plan describing how safety will be maintained during natural and man-made disasters such as fire, flood, earthquake, extreme weather conditions, power failure or utility disruption, chemical or toxic spills, bomb threat or terrorist attack.</p> <p>Train any other adults in household and Substitute about their specific duties during a disaster or emergency event.</p> <p>Account for all children at all times.</p>	<p>Consider enhancing emergency preparedness plans.</p> <p>Have more than one copy of your emergency plan in different locations throughout the FCC Home. Keep one in your car. Easy access to your plan may help you or anyone helping out to stay calm and more focused on keeping the situation as under control as possible.</p> <p>Create a ready to go file with copies of the children’s emergency contact information and any other important paperwork – administration of medication sheet, attendance (roll-check) list, and incident/injury forms.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 229-231: Emergency Planning (continued)</p> <p>Relocate the children if there is a need to evacuate.</p> <p>Contact appropriate emergency response agencies.</p> <p>Contact procedure for the parents/guardians of the children.</p> <p>Post evacuation plan and practice evacuating FCC Home (fire drill to leaving premises).</p> <p>Have food, water and supplies available to shelter in the FCCH Home for at least 72 hours.</p>	<p>Consider creating an evacuation notebook that includes pictures of each child and their family members to use for identification purposes. Put copies of contact information in the notebook. Maintain this notebook in an easily accessible spot so it may be quickly gathered to take away during an evacuation.</p> <p>Have identification information concealed on each child in case they become separated from the group. Do not place child's full name or information that directly identifies child in plain view.</p> <p>Have several predetermined evacuation sites available – one close by in the neighborhood; another just outside the community – several miles away; and one more that is located further away – 10 to 20 miles or more. If at all possible to avoid relocating to a public shelter. Extreme caution must be taken if there is no other alternative. Remember that people from all walks of life are also evacuating to public shelters and the situation could present a very high risk of danger to children. Constant supervision must be provided.</p> <p>Create a written memorandum of understanding regarding the use of predetermined evacuation sites. Make sure all parties involved are in agreement with the arrangements.</p> <p>Create emergency go-packs (usually a back-pack type carrier) for children. Prepare a list of supplies for each child and ask parents/guardians to help obtain them. For instance, the go-pack may have a change of clothes, diapers, wipes, extra formula & bottles, small bottles of water or juice, favorite snacks (more on the nutritious side), books and/or small toys, blanket, raincoat, picture of the child and his or her family, etc.</p> <p>If needing to evacuate, bring a "traveling" first aid kit. Use the first aid kit normally taken on field trips if the FCC Home offers such an opportunity – see Rule #242. If field trips are not offered, create a traveling first aid kit that will at least be used if needing to relocate due to an emergency or disaster event.</p> <p>Leave a note at the FCC Home informing parents/guardians of the relocation site and a cell phone number or contact information. Bring a cell phone(s) and be prepared to try to contact parents/guardians.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 229-231: Emergency Planning (continued)</p>	<p>Have an out of state contact person that can be called when local calling is not possible or not working well. Share this out of state contact information with parents/guardians. Explain that this out of state person will become the point of contact and will be told pertinent information that can help keep everyone informed.</p> <p>Keep written documentation of when a child is released to a parent/guardian.</p> <p>Practice both fire and disaster or emergency event drills. Have children practice going to predetermined safe area of the FCC Home such as an interior hallway or the basement for a “pretend tornado warning”. Practice evacuating to another location – walk the children to a predetermined site nearby or practice transportation arrangements.</p> <p>If there is no electricity (blackout), an alternate lighting source such as battery or crank operated lighting should provide enough illumination to enable you to supervise the activities and provide for the care of all children at all times. Burning candles is not recommended. In the case of a total blackout, intense supervision within the constraints of the situation is urged.</p>
<p>Rules 232-239: Child Health</p> <p>Each child is observed on arrival and checked for signs of communicable disease, physical injury or other evidence of ill health.</p> <p>Children with certain symptoms of illness or reportable communicable disease are not permitted to be admitted to the FCC Home or remain at the FCC Home unless written documentation from a health care provider, or verbal with written follow-up, states child no longer poses health risk to other children.</p>	<p>Continuously observe and assess children’s health status, especially for signs of physical injury due to the disaster or emergency event. Be especially sensitive to how a traumatic situation may affect a child. Reassurance, listening and being readily available to respond to a child’s needs are particularly important in such a time.</p> <p>Regardless of certain symptoms or manifestation of illness or communicable disease, children will be allowed to stay at the FCC Home until it is safe to release them to their parents/guardians unless the situation becomes life-threatening at which time emergency assistance should be sought – call 911 if possible.</p> <p>If a child becomes sick when sheltering at the FCC Home or can not be immediately picked up by parent/guardian, utilize all precautions to decrease the spread of the illness such as frequent and proper hand washing or hand sanitization (if there is no running water) especially diaper changing, toileting, or while preparing foods.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 232-239: Child Health (continued)</p>	<p>Discouraging children from sneezing or coughing directly into another child's face; sanitize toys, surfaces or any thing that children may mouth or could contain germs that spread illness.</p> <p>Keep children hydrated, adequately fed (based upon supplies available) and as well rested as possible.</p>
<p>Rules 240: Standard Precautions; 252-256: Diapering; and 257-262: Sanitation</p> <p>Use standard precautions for protection from disease and infection. Spill of body fluids (i.e. urine, feces, blood, saliva, nasal discharge, and injury or tissue discharge) should be cleaned up immediately (see Rule 240).</p> <p>Diapers and other clothing should be changed when wet or soiled. There should be an established procedure for checking, changing and disposing of diapers in a sanitary manner (see Rules 252-256).</p> <p>Wash and disinfect specific equipment or surfaces after each use and/or at least daily (see Rules 257-262).</p>	<p>Strive to continue the highest possible level of sanitary practices to help prevent or reduce the risk of spreading disease and infection.</p> <p>Consider having hand sanitizers available in preparation for emergency situations when running water is not available. Have extra containers of household bleach ready for an emergency.</p> <p>Recycle any available safe water as much as possible and use it for cleaning – add bleach to the water to create a disinfectant solution – one-fourth (1/4) cup of household bleach to each gallon of water, or one (1) tablespoon of bleach per quart of water.</p>
<p>Rules 266-268, 270, 273, 278-280: Meals/Snacks</p> <p>Nutritious and appropriately timed meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and snacks meeting nutritional requirements are served in accordance with a schedule based on the number of hours a child is in attendance.</p> <p>Meals and snacks provided in accordance to USDA/Child and Adult Care Food Program meal pattern requirements adjusted by age of child.</p> <p>Supplemental foods from all basic food groups are available if meals or snacks provided by parents/guardians fail to meet nutritional requirements.</p> <p>Meals and snacks contain specific items based on basic food groups – milk, proteins, fruits and vegetables, and grains.</p> <p>Fruit juice is 100% unsweetened juice.</p> <p>Powered milk is not used as substitute for fluid milk for drinking purposes.</p>	<p>Meals will not have to meet USDA/CADFP standards if it is not possible to replenish food supplies due to the disaster or emergency event.</p> <p>When food supplies are being conserved or down to emergency provisions only, the specific timing of meals and snacks and following required nutritional guidelines will not be expected. At this point, food can be very basic. The goal will be to provide enough food and water/liquids to keep children from being hungry and thirsty. If at all possible, continue documentation of foods and liquids served to children especially for those with known food allergies or dietary special needs.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 296A, 297-299: Activities and Interactions – Outdoor Play, Physical Activity</p> <p>Ensure periods of indoor and outdoor time.</p> <p>Provide opportunity for a minimum of 20 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity indoors or outdoors for every 3 hours a child is in attendance between the hours of 7AM to 7PM.</p> <p>Have periods of outside play each day weather conditions permitting.</p> <p>Alternative indoor space for active play in cases of prolonged periods of inclement or extreme weather conditions.</p>	<p>The benefits of physical activity for children should not be dismissed in a disaster or emergency event. The event can be stressful and participating in physical activity can be a way to relieve stress. Health benefits also attest to continuation of physical activity.</p> <p>Invention and good judgment should be used in designing and scheduling activities within the constraints caused by the disaster or emergency event. Whenever possible, provide opportunities for moderate to vigorous physical activity even if it is just for a few minutes.</p>
<p>Rules 305C – 306F: Activities and Interactions – Television, DVD, VCR, and Computer Use</p> <p>Use or viewing limited to one hour daily per child or group of children.</p>	<p>Television, DVD, VCR and computer use may be extended beyond one hour daily if such an activity/interaction is helpful in keeping children appropriately occupied or provides a safe distraction to the disaster or emergency event at hand. You are still responsible to ensure that programming is age appropriate. Caution should also be given to the topics of the programming so that they do not contribute to greater anxiety or negative behaviors.</p> <p>When sheltering in a specific area, and television, DVD, or VCR programming is being shown, it is strongly suggested that whenever possible, instead of allowing infants and toddlers to watch the programming, attempts should be made to take this time to interact with infants and young toddlers and involve them in other positive activities.</p> <p>Children should be shielded from viewing or listening to news or information about the event. Seeing or hearing the media coverage of an event, especially repeated scenes of disaster and mayhem, is extremely stressful and scary to children. It is very difficult for them to understand that such scenes are events that have already happened. They may believe that the situation is happening right then or over and over again.</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 307 - 308: Equipment</p> <p>Materials and equipment are available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a variety of indoor and outdoor activities; • Support all levels of children’s development; • Allow all children to benefit from their use (appropriate quantity); and • Allow for range of choices – at least duplicates of most popular items and experiences that support children’s social, emotional, language/literacy, intellectual, and physical development. 	<p>When sheltering in a specific area, children may whatever existing materials and equipment that is available. Play and activities should be structured based on the needs of the children, especially taking into consideration helping them cope with the event and any particular safety factors.</p>
<p>Rules 319-325; 332-333 – Napping/Sleeping and Night Child Care</p> <p>Each child has clean, age-appropriate, individual napping/sleeping equipment such as a crib, port-a-crib, playpen, cot, mat, sleeping bag or bed.</p> <p>Napping/sleeping equipment is 18 inches apart.</p> <p>Night child care – bed is equipped with a mattress that is not directly on the floor.</p>	<p>Children older than one year may sleep directly on the floor if that is the only alternative. Whenever possible, safely cushion the sleep surface such as at least using a blanket or sheet for the child to lie on and another as a cover.</p> <p>Safe sleep practices for infants must continue to be implemented especially concerning placing infants on their backs to sleep. If an infant can not be placed in a crib, port-a-crib or playpen to nap/sleep, the sleeping surface must be safely cushioned in a firm and smooth manner.</p> <p>Children may sleep less than 18 inches from each other if space is limited due to sheltering in an area that is considered the safest space available.</p>
<p>Rules 344-347: Off Premises of FCC Home</p> <p>Children are not permitted off premises of FCC Home without Licensee or Substitute.</p> <p>Constant supervision is provided while off premises</p> <p>Safety policy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for accounting of children for at all times including documented roll check of taking attendance when departing the FCC Home, arriving and departing from destination and arriving back at FCC Home; • Copy of and easy access to medical consent forms and emergency contact information; • Proper storage container for medications; • Traveling first aid kit is available; 	<p>If needing to relocate/evacuate, plan to use and consider taking steps to enhance the off premises rules to ensure children are constantly supervised and accounted for at all times.</p> <p>See Emergency Planning Rules 229-231 above for enhancing evacuation procedures</p>

Rules	Alternative and/or Suggested Procedures
<p>Rules 344-347: Off Premises of FCC Home (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency transportation plan is developed; and • Tags for children or other means of providing the FCC Home's contact telephone number – do not place child's name or information that directly identifies child on the child or is in plain view. 	
<p>Rules 348-360: Transportation</p> <p>Vehicles and operators of vehicles are in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws.</p> <p>No transporting more persons than the capacity of the vehicle.</p> <p>Each child is secured in an individual safety restraint system appropriate to age, weight and height of child.</p> <p>Safety restraints are federally approved and so labeled, installed and used in accordance with manufacturer's and vehicle's instruction and maintained in a safe working condition and free of any recall.</p> <p>Inform and obtain written permission from parents/guardians each time transportation is provided.</p>	<p>Licensed child care facilities are required to ensure children are transported according to State Law, and <i>Delacare Rules</i>; however if a situation is truly deemed "life or death", immediate actions should be taken to evacuate or get children out of harms way as quickly as possible.</p> <p>OCCL will consult with local or State governmental authorities who have the ability to evaluate or determine the severity of an emergency situation if there is ever any question(s)/problem(s) resulting in any actions taken or decisions made by a child care facility while transporting children during a disaster or emergency event.</p> <p>Nevertheless, even under dire circumstances, there is no guarantee that the child care facility will not be held responsible in some way for any harm to a child even if OCCL finds the facility to have made an acceptable decision or taken appropriate actions under the circumstances. Please keep in mind that there is always the chance that others involved or affected by the action/decision may see the situation differently and take legal action against the facility.</p>